DEMOCRATIC
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Berlin Congress Adopts Programme

Socialist Unity Party Confers

The new programme of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany was unanimously adopted at the 6th Party Congress in East Berlin on January 19th. "Now that socialist modes of production have been victorious in the GDR, the next stage is the all-round construction of socialism," the new programme states.

This 30,000-word document, covering all fields of social life, ideology and economic development, was published in draft on November 23rd last year, and has since been discussed throughout the GDR. Thousands of amendments, ranging from small verbal changes to the redrafting of entire sections, were submitted to the Party Congress, which met in East Berlin on January 15th, and a total of 68 of these amendments were incorporated in the final programme as adopted by the Congress. (A summary of the draft programme was published in GERMAN REPORT of December 7th 1962.)

Apart from the discussion of the programme and a new Party Statute, the Congress was marked by important discussions of problems ranging from the solution of the German problem to differences inside the world communist movement.

On the following pages, GERMAN REPORT presents summaries of some of the main points made in speeches by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, and Nikita Khrushchov, First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, who led the Soviet fraternal delegation to the Congress.

(A further report on the Congress, which was still in session when this issue went to press, will be published in the next number.)

Ulbricht Speech Summary

Addressing the Congress, First Secretary Walter Ulbricht made these points:

The West Berlin Problem:

"There are some NATO politicians in West Germany and other countries who would like to. utilise the compromise in the Caribbean Sea in order to make absurd demands with regard to the West Berlin problem, and thus avoid a solution. These people, instead of drawing the correct conclusion that it is necessary to de-fuse other danger spots, particularly West Berlin, would like to keep the fuse burning there.

"Such people obviously do not pay attention to the real situation of West Berlin. West Berlin lies in the middle of the territory of the German Democratic Republic, with all the strategic and other results of such a situation. A compromise on West Berlin cannot consist of legalising the existence in West Berlin of an illegal occupation regime, an illegal NATO base, an illegal centre of diversion against the GDR and other socialist countries.

"I would like to pose a few questions for the citizens of the USA, Britain, France, and the citizens of neutral countries. These questions may make clear what has to be done with regard to West Berlin.

"I would like to ask what troops from the USA, Britain and France are doing in West Berlin, nearly 18 years after the end of World War Two. With what rights do they maintain there an occupation regime and a NATO base? Nobody can claim that this improves peaceful relations between the nations.

"I would like to ask what you would say if foreign troops were illegally stationed in the centre of your country.

"I would like to ask what you would say or do if the roads, railways and airlanes of your country were used, illegally and without proper agreements, and without paying the usual international fees, by foreign armies.

"I would like to ask what you would say if the secret services of foreign countries established, in the middle of your territory, bases for espionage and diversion directed against your homeland. What would you say if hostile governments maintained, in the middle of your territory, radio stations which transmitted instructions to spies and agents?

"I ask all people of good will what they would do if they and their peoples were expected to put up with such a state of affairs.

"Would it not be sensible to seek a solution in negotiations, a solution which would accord with the just interests of the parties concerned?

"We are ready for such negotiations; but nobody can expect that we shall continue indefinitely to put up with such a state of affairs.

"I believe that for the USA, too, a sensible peaceful solution would be more satisfactory than to give support to the West German militarist extremists.

"The removal of the occupation statutes in West Berlin, and the conversion of the city into a peaceful and neutral Free City would help to bring about a non-aggression pact between the Warsaw Pact powers and the NATO, and would remove one of the main obstacles to general disarmament.

(Walter Ulbricht then sketched the outline for a compromise agreement on West Berlin, similar to that outlined by Mr Khrushchov in his speech to the Party Congress.)

The Two German States

"We suggest that steps should be taken to create normal relations between the two German states. For this purpose we suggest the conclusion of a pact of goodwill, basing itself upon the fact that two separate German states with differing social systems do, in fact, exist. This pact should include roughly the following clauses:

1. Respect for the existence of the other German state, and its political and social system. Renunciation of the use of force in any form.
2. Respect for the frontiers of the two German states, and renunciation of any attempt to change these frontiers.
3. Renunciation of the testing, possession, disposition, and acquisition of nuclear weapons.
4. Arms stop in both German states, and further agreements on disarmament in both states.
5. Mutual recognition of the passports and citizenship of the two German states as a pre-condition for the normalisation of travel.
6. Establishment of normal sport and cultural relations.
7. Conclusion of a trade agreement between the governments of the two German states, with the aim of expanding trade.

Those are our proposals. We are naturally ready to negotiate on West German proposals on the same subject."

Economic Developments

Walter Ulbricht devoted a major part of his speech to a thorough review of the industry and agriculture of the GDR. The current year would be a transitional year in the planning period, and a new Seven Year Plan for 1964—1970 was now being worked out.

It was not yet possible to give details of the new plan, which was still in the preliminary stages, but the overall prospect was that industrial production would rise by 60%. By 1970, total industrial production would be six times as great as it was in 1949, the year when the GDR was established.

With regard to consumer goods, great increases were foreshadowed in the production of long-lasting goods such as refrigerators and cars; there would be increases, but not so great, in the supplies of butter and meat, where consumption in the GDR is today much higher than in most other countries. In many other fields, such as clothing and furniture, supplies are already adequate today, and there was no need to increase the quantity; what was necessary in these fields was an improvement of quality.

Khrushchov Speech Summary

Addressing the Congress, Nikita Khrushchov made these points:

"It is good to see that things are moving ahead well in the German Democratic Republic," Premier Khrushchov stated. "In your Republic, which is less than a quarter the area of pre-war Germany, industrial production by the end of 1961 was already about 90% of that of all Germany in 1936. The working people of the GDR have made great social gains."

"We Communists are happy to see that the ideas of scientific socialism first worked out by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, 'great sons of the German people, are now becoming reality on German soil."

This was also especially important because Germany was one of the leading industrial countries of the world. The victory of socialism was now taking place in a part of Germany which was once the centre of the worst reaction and militarism, despite the fact that the Hitler fascists had done everything to poison the German people.

The fact that the workers, farmers and intellectuals of the GDR were building a new life in cooperation with the other socialist countries was a sign of the important progress made in the socialist education of the German people.

The difficulties in building socialism were sharpened by the division of the country into two states with different social systems. This meant that the party must employ especially elastic and tactful solutions to many questions of building a new society. The enemies of the new Germany were still using every method to weaken the GDR and undermine its authority, and the class struggle was often especially acute.

"Our delegation is happy to see that this Congress is paying special attention to increasing labour productivity. This is a task of eminent importance.

"The GDR is in direct economic competition with West Germany, and it is most important to overtake West Germany in this respect. You are temporarily still behind West Germany in this competition. You know that better than we do.

"Last year was in many ways a turning point for the economic development of the GDR. Productivity in industry grew by 9%, and a better ratio developed between the growth of labour productivity and the increase in wages, as well as between the supply of consumer goods and the purchasing power of the population. Your agriculture is also progressing better.

"The fight to increase labour productivity is a law which is valid both for our country and for all other socialist countries. Not every worker is able to understand the development of society as a whole, and some think things out this way: Fritz, who works in the GDR, receives so much and Hans, who works in the West, gets so much. In this way he determines where it is better and where it is worse.

"Yes, comrades! That is how it is at the moment. That is why your

task is to organise production better and raise labour productivity till it is higher than in the capitalist countries. I think that is clear to everybody."

Turning to the German question as a whole, Khrushchov emphasised that two states had replaced the old Hitler Reich, a peace-loving socialist Germany and a militarist, revenge-seeking imperialist Germany. "In addition, West Berlin has a special position as a capitalist island in the territory of the German Democratic Republic. That is the true picture of present-day Germany. In view of this situation peaceful coexistence between the two German states is a task of world importance.

"At first sight it might look as if nothing has changed since we first raised the question of signing a peace treaty with both German states and called for a normalisation of the situation in West Berlin on this basis. Four years have passed, but there is still no peace treaty. The outdated occupation regime in West Berlin is still there and revanchism and militarism are growing rapidly in West Germany under the protection of the western powers. Some people might say, therefore, that all this time has been wasted and that the socialist countries gained nothing by raising so sharply the question of a German peace treaty.

GDR Stronger

"However, important changes have taken place. The position of the GDR is much stronger. For a long time your Republic was unable to assert its sovereignty effectively in many ways. Your frontier with West Berlin was an open gate which was misused by subversive elements who, unhindered and unpunished, sucked the very lifeblood of the Republic, stole thousands of millions of marks from the working people every year, and weakened the very foundations of socialism.

"On August 13th 1961 these impossible conditions were altered. You finally took control of your frontier with West Berlin, the most important step in securing the sovereignty of the GDR. You became the real rulers and protectors of your frontiers and it became possible to protect your socialist achievements and the peaceful labour of your citizens against interference from without.

"The declaration of the socialist signatory states of the Warsaw Pact stated that the protective measures on the frontier with West Berlin would involve certain discomforts for the city's population. But the ones to blame for this are those who use West Berlin as a centre for criminal subversion against your Republic and who misuse the good will of the GDR Government."

POTTED HISTORY OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY

The history of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED – Socialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands) stretches back to the Social Democratic Workers' Party, founded in 1869, and renamed the Social Democratic Party (SPD) in 1890.

Before the First World War this party, most powerful Socialist Party in the world, united the various streams of the German socialist movement. When the leadership of the SPD supported the Kaiser's war in 1914, revolutionary elements under the leadership of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg broke away to form the Spartakus League. At the end of 1918, the Spartakus League formed the core for the formation of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD).

During the Weimar Republic there was bitter friction between the two sections of the worker's movement, both of which won big electoral followings. In the last pre-Hitler election in 1932 the SPD won nearly eight million votes, and the KPD well over five million.

During the anti-Hitler underground struggle, and in the concentration camps, members of the KPD and SPD cooperated closely, and swore they would not allow the movement to be split again into mutually hostile fractions.

A few weeks after the fall of Hitler, the KPD and SPD were reconstituted, first in the Soviet Zone and later in the western zones. In the Soviet Zone the two parties cooperated closely in the work of denazification and rebuilding, and after membership polls the two parties held separate party congresses in April 1946 in which they agreed to merge to form the Socialist Unity Party. The first joint chairmen of the new united party were Wilhelm Pieck, veteran KPD leader, and Otto Grotewohl, veteran SPD politician.

In the western zones, occupation officials prevented moves for unification which were strong there too, and used military transport to bring to Berlin "pro-western" SPD leaders in a vain attempt to prevent the reunification in the eastern part of Germany. The SPD and the KPD went their separate ways in West Germany, and the KPD was banned by West German court decision in 1956.

In the GDR the SED is today the main party, with over 1,500,000 members. About ten percent were members of the KPD or SPD before Hitler came to power. 40 veteran members of the SED joined the old SPD before 1890 when it was still a clandestine organisation operating underground under the Anti-Socialist Laws promulgated by Bismarck.

Premier Khrushchov then discussed the theory that the frontier wall built in Berlin had brought all the advantages hoped for in a peace treaty with Germany; the securing of the frontier, the hindering of the West from entering the GDR and the possibility of certain controls over communications between West Berlin and West Germany. This theory was not completely correct, Khrushchov said, although there were certain elements of truth in it. The GDR had finally received the right to control its own borders, a right which is indispensable for every sovereign state. But this had still not solved those problems which could only be settled by a peace treaty. A peace treaty would solve all left-over problems of the last war and confirm all present boundaries, thus averting the danger of a new war. A peace treaty would thus benefit not only the socialist countries, but also the neutral countries and the people of the capitalist countries.

"The socialist countries do not need West Berlin. They can get along very well without it. The western powers do not need it either. West Berlin could become a bridge of peace, a model of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems. Nevertheless, the imperialist countries repeatedly claim that they are committed to defending West Berlin's 'freedom'. This obviously spurious formula just does not hold water. It is only an excuse for maintaining international tension at every price, and this tension is concentrated like the focal point of a magnifying glass on the present abnormal situation in West Berlin."

War and Peace

"Marxist-Leninists have always given a great deal of attention to questions of war and peace and always examined them in their specific historical context. It is impossible to solve questions of war and peace without taking the existing realities into account. One must have

the courage to face up earnestly to the true facts as they are and to weigh with scientific precision what the results of a modern war might be. The United States has at present approximately 40,000 nuclear bombs and warheads according to foreign scientists and military experts. The Soviet Union has more than enough of these things, too.

"What would happen if all these nuclear weapons were used? Scientists estimate that the first blow alone would take a toll of 700 to 800 million lives. All major cities would be wiped out and destroyed — not only in the two leading nuclear countries, the USA and the USSR, but in France, Britain, Germany, Italy, China, Japan and many other countries of the world.

"I am not speaking of these things to frighten anybody, but am only quoting facts known today by science.

"A thermonuclear war, if insane imperialists should start one, would undoubtedly mean the end forever of the system of capitalism, which breeds wars. But would the socialist countries, would the struggle for socialism in the whole world win in such a thermonuclear world catastrophe? Only people who consciously shut their eyes to the facts can believe this. As for the Marxist-Leninists, they cannot imagine building up a communist civilisation on the ruins of the world's cultural centres, on rubble-covered soil which is poisoned by thermonuclear fall-out. We need hardly add that the question of socialism would become completely useless for some peoples because they would disappear altogether from the face of the earth."

Differences Among Communists

"It is not impossible that communists in different countries will have different opinions on certain questions, even on very important ones. The countries of the socialist world system are now going through different stages in the construction of a new society. Their experiences in developing their foreign relations are not always the same, and that makes a different approach to some problems possible. That may not be a very pleasant phenomenon, but it cannot be dismissed."

Khrushchov stressed that differences of opinion of this kind were only of a temporary nature, and were subordinate to the basic agreement on most questions. Patience was therefore especially necessary. The main task of all socialist countries was to build up their socialist system successfully and to convince the workers of the rest of the world what was possible when the exploiters were removed from power. In the case of differences of opinion, it was important to remain objective in judging developments in one or the other country.

"One should not judge the political system in any socialist country simply on the basis of the temporarily mistaken views of its leaders. The decisive factors are objective and not subjective. Basically, that means the answer to the question as to who owns the means of production, who holds power and what path the country is taking in its development.

"If we have differences of opinion and arguments on certain questions and then state that a socialist country whose leaders disagree with us is not a socialist country, this is real subjectivism. It is like some church circles: if someone does not follow church rules and rites properly, he is excommunicated. We have no right to copy the church fathers and 'excommunicate' anyone from socialism.

"We differ on some ideological questions with Yugoslavia, for example, but that is no reason to state that it is not a socialist country. That would be wrong because the objective character of the system there is socialist.

"We differ greatly with the leaders of the Albanian Party of Labour; should we declare subjectively that Albania is not a socialist country? That would be false, subjective behaviour. Although the Albanian leadership does not understand many important questions, we believe that Albania is a socialist country and that its people have demonstrated true heroism in fighting for the victory of socialism."

Calling a Truce

"The Central Committee of our party believes it would be advisable to halt the polemics amongst the communist parties and the criticism of foreign parties within each party and to let a period of time pass for tempers to cool off. Some comrades have advocated calling a conference of all fraternal parties to discuss things. Our party was always for such discussions. Yet we believe there is obviously little hope of settling present differences if such a conference were held right now. Instead of a calm and reasonable resolution of our differences, it would only increase them and bring about the danger of a split.

"We believe it would be more suitable to the interests of the working class and to our future if we end the polemics in the press about the disputed questions. Let us permit time to work for us and help us to decide who is right and who is wrong. In this period all the incidental side problems can be settled. Then we can unite more successfully, summarise the results of the paths we have followed and work out common theories expressing a unified standpoint on the basic questions of the development of the world-wide communist and workers' movement."

"Observer" Hits Brecht Ban

The British Foreign Office decided early in January to prevent the scheduled visit to Britain of the Berliner Ensemble, the East Berlin theatre specialising in plays by famed dramatist Bertolt Brecht and headed by his widow Helene Weigel. The ban is the latest in a long series of similar decisions by NATO member states to keep out all GDR artists, journalists, scientists and athletes, presumably because of pressure from West Germany. In a comment on the ban, the London "Observer" wrote in a lead article on January 13th:

"The Foreign Office's refusal to allow the Berliner Ensemble — the Brecht company — to visit London later this year is a bad piece of play-acting. Presumably this is part of the more general boycott of the East German regime which is designed to show disapproval of its policies as a whole and the Berlin Wall in particular.

"But the worst possible way of showing disapproval of the East German Government is by imitating its intolerance: by putting up a cultural wall in protest against the Berlin Wall. It is pointless as well as petulant. And, in any case, the final losers will be theatre audiences in Britain."

Diplomatic Relations with Cuba

Full diplomatic relations between Cuba and the German Democratic Republic will be established shortly, it was announced in Berlin and Havana on January 12th. Cuba is the first country in the western hemisphere with which the GDR has diplomatic relations.

Two days after the announcement, the West German Government broke relations with Cuba. In conformity with its so-called Hallstein Doctrine it called the recognition of the GDR a "violation of vital West German interests."

NAZIS IN THE NEWS

1. Himmler's Assistant as M.P.

A new M.P. in the West German parliament used to be personal adjutant to Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's top murderer. The new M.P., Dr Max Frauendorfer, entered parliament as a member of the Christian Social Union, Bavarian offshoot of Adenauer's Christian Democrats, in January 1963, replacing a member who had taken a post in the Bavarian provincial government.

Dr Frauendorfer began his nazi career long before Hitler came to power, and in the late 1920s he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the black-uniformed SS, which was then Hitler's bodyguard. When the nazis took over in 1933 his first job was as personal adjutant to Heinrich Himmler, at that time police chief in Munich. Later Frauendorfer held the important post of "Reichshauptamtleiter" in the Nazi Party, and was responsible for the publication of the political indoctrination circulars of the party.

After the nazi occupation of Poland, Frauendorfer was placed in charge of the nazi Labour Office, which had the task of mobilising Poles for slave labour. On December 21st 1940, before the large-scale liquidation of Jews had begun, he signed a decree depriving Jews in Poland of all protection by labour laws. The later extermination campaign appears to have been too much even for him to stomach, however, and Gerald Reitlinger, in his book "The Final Solution", notes: "Frauendorfer ... finally resigned his post in disgust and went to the front as a soldier".

On the strength of this late change of heart, Frauendorfer claims today to have been a resistance fighter. Commenting upon his promotion to M.P., the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" reported tersely on January 9th: "There is thus today one more resistance fighter in the German Federal Parliament."

2. Lidice Criminal as Civil Servant

Dr Robert Gies, a respectable-looking civil servant of 60, is today employed by the Provincial Government of North-Rhine-Westphalia in the high rank of Ministerial Counsellor in the department dealing with "compensation for POWs". This is the department which has granted large sums of compensation to convicted nazi war criminals when they are finally returned to West Germany from the countries in which they have served their sentences. Dr Gies is himself a war criminal. During the war he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the SS, and was in charge of the "disposal" of the children of Czechs who had been executed by the nazis.

Letters and documents on his activities have been preserved in Prague. On June 13th 1944 he reported that seven children from the destroyed village of Lidice had been found "worthy of Germanisation" and sent to a German orphan home; other children from Lidice "unworthy of Germanisation" had been "deported to the east". This was the nazi phrase denoting that they had been sent to the gas chambers in a liquidation camp.

In July 1959 the relevant documents in the case of Dr Gies were submitted to the judicial authorities in Münster, where he has his office. No action has yet been taken against him.

"International Tribunal Should Try Globke"

If the West German authorities fail to try Adenauer's State Secretary Hans Globke for his crimes against humanity, then such a trial should be conducted by an international forum, members of an International Jurists' Commission announced in Berlin on January 11th.

British Barrister John Platts-Mills, a member of the International Commission, told a press conference in East Berlin that there was now overwhelming documentary evidence about the role played by Globke during the nazi era. Unless Globke could answer these charges, he showed that he was guilty, not only of war crimes and crimes against humanity, but guilty of crimes defined in the criminal code of every civilised country.

"We demand that the West German authorities should examine the case and prosecute Globke", Mr Platt-Mills said. "If there are difficulties, then a special organisation must be established to carry out such a trial."

One day before the press conference in East Berlin, the members of the International Commission had visited Bonn to hand over to the Ministry of Justice newly discovered documents on the Globke case. Officials of the ministry had refused to receive them, and they were prevented from holding a press conference.

In the meantime, new details have become available of Globke's attempts to withdraw from litigation on the case. During 1961, Rolf Seeliger, a West German, organised an exhibition of documents from the nazi files which incriminated Globke, who is today Chancellor Adenauer's personal assistant. Globke thereupon filed charges of slander against Seeliger. It is now learned that Globke has offered to withdraw the charges if Seeliger apologises; Seeliger has refused to do so.

On December 17th Globke gave evidence on the case to an examining magistrate in Bonn. His main claim was that he had not helped to draft the nazi law "For the Protection of German Blood", one of the anti-Semitic Nuremberg laws, as was alleged in one of the nazi documents shown in the exhibition. He did not attempt to argue that he had not written the official legal commentary to this law.

Globke also claimed that he had never sworn an oath of allegiance to Hitler. He explained that he had signed a declaration stating that he had sworn such an oath, but that when the oath was administered he had "withdrawn into a niche and not actually taken the oath". Observers recalled the schoolboy trick of keeping one's fingers crossed behind one's back when making a promise.

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The charges against Globke are so massive and so complicated that it is impossible to repeat them all here. A selection of the Globke documents, with an English translation, is available in the pamphlet "Globke — Bureaucrat of Death", free copies of which are available on application to:

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Meet the People (2)

Mathematics with Maturity

by Helga Preuss

This article is the second in a series about ordinary people in the German Democratic Republic.

I have nothing but awe for people who know more about integral and differential calculus than just their names, and when I find out that someone has received the highest possible grades in these subjects, I look and listen to her just a little more attentively.

When I asked the lively, still very youthful-looking woman (a natural blonde of 47) when she had received these mathematics grades she answered, "In June".

"Which June?"

"1962."

"How did you ever decide to study mathematics last year?"

Slowly I was able to piece together her story; that of a woman who never had a real chance in life before 1945 but who has been able to use her ability and move forward in a new career since the GDR began to build socialism.

Editha Globig was born in 1915. Her father, a bricklayer, was killed in World War One while she was still a baby, and her mother, who had never learned a trade, was suddenly faced by the task of bringing up her three small children alone. She began work in a factory on the day-shift while her sister worked there on night-shift so that they could take turns minding the children; in those days she could not even think of placing the children in one of the scarce and very expensive nursery schools.

Just as Editha's childhood was overshadowed by the war and its aftermath, her adolescence was clouded by the depression with its severe unemployment which hit the world in the 1930's. After years of searching for work, she finally found a job for a starvation wage as an office worker in a factory.

When she was about 15 she also began searching for an answer to the many problems of those years — she longed for a different kind of life where an education was not an impossible dream and where one could live without fear and anxiety about the future. She got to know of the communist youth movement and after a while became a member.

Then Hitler took over, and the Globig family was among those which suffered immediately. Both her brothers were arrested in 1933 by the Gestapo, and she herself was put under surveillance. She continued working as a stenographer in various offices until the war came, when she was conscripted into auxiliary service and sent off to Italy. She was kept there until the end of the war when she managed to make her way back to Berlin.

Her flat had been occupied by others in the meantime, and it was very difficult to find a place to stay. But it was more than easy to find work. She began as secretary in an employment office, but soon the good work of the very intelligent young woman attracted attention, and she was given more and more responsible jobs. She became an investigator for the Bureau of Customs Controls, then was promoted to be an administrative head in an office coordinating public transportation firms; a few quick courses enabled her to take on the post of personnel manager in the same firm, and then she became associate manager of the very important planning department.

But despite this succession of very responsible positions, she never paid as much attention to herself and her own development as she did to activities benefiting her country or helping her fellow-employees to qualify themselves further. She spent many an evening at this latter "hobby" of hers; when others were going to the theatre, she sat at her desk and made preparations to teach a class the next day, where she would have to be able to answer countless questions from her colleagues. While others were having parties or going out for a good time, she was often enough busy giving evening courses. All these years she sacrificed most of her leisure time to activities which meant no financial benefits but only the satisfaction of having helped others.

A change occurred after a meeting three years ago, when she spoke especially forcibly about the position of the women employees in the firm and was able to win a number of improvements in working conditions for them. A few days later — without her request or knowledge — she received a reward. In recognition of her determination and initiative, as well as her other contributions thus far, the firm nominated her to become a student in an "industrial institute" run by the transportation industry in the GDR. This is a special school connected with the College of Transportation in Dresden, one of the world's leading institutions for dealing with all problems of rail, road, water and air transportation, which has been built up over the last ten years. The industrial institute accepts only students between the ages of 35 and 50 who have worked in the transportation field but have never had the opportunity to go to college in their youth or who have been so busy with social and political work that they have done little on their own behalf. The studies consist of six months of correspondence courses followed by four months of preparatory study at the College of Transportation in Dresden. For those who pass these courses successfully, there are then two years of regular studies, also at the college. Since many of these students have families and regular financial

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obligations which younger students do not have, they continue to receive their full pay while studying. They can live in the college hostel and have only one task — to do well in their studies.

Editha Globig liked studying, got along well, but could not refrain from her old "hobby" of helping those students who had greater difficulty in learning the long list of difficult subjects.

On her diploma I saw her record in mathematics, problems of road construction, experimental physics, political economy, bridge construction, work safety precautions and other subjects. It was a very fine diploma; she had the top grade of 1 ("very good") in mathematics and no grades were lower than 2 ("good").

I was especially glad to have met Editha Globig and to see in her a living proof of the falsity of some widely-held theories — that "women are no good in scientific fields" or "You can't study properly when you get older". It ist just as possible for somewhat older people to learn well if they are untroubled by worries about problems having nothing to do with their courses.

After finishing at the industrial institute, Editha Globig got a job with a firm planning, designing and coordinating the construction of all new highways in the GDR. Her particular task is to search out the best, simplest and most efficient methods used by the different road construction firms and to see that they get passed around to all the other firms doing similar work, thus displacing out-moded methods by more productive ones and speeding up the rate of highway construction in the country. As for her leisure time, she admitted that it is still very well filled with her old hobby of helping others to learn the things she was able to study in the past years.

Is she happy? "Not quite," she told me. "My household gets terribly neglected. Other towns and boroughs have finally got home service firms which care for one's flat and do all household jobs from cleaning windows to beating carpets. But there is still no such firm in my neighbourhood of Berlin. I'm waiting impatiently for one to be opened up near my home as well."

Quotes from Konrad:

Which Adenauer Speech Do You Believe?

"The active National Socialists and the active militarists, those responsible for the war and its prolongation, including certain leading industrialists, will have to be removed."

(December 1945)

"We agree that we should be completely disarmed, that our war industry should be destroyed, and that we should be made subject to a long period of control. I shall go even further: I believe that a majority of the German people would agree to the complete neutralisation of Germany, on the pattern of Switzerland".

(December 30th 1946)

"I have repeatedly spoken out against German rearmament, because I have wished to express the deep desire for peace of the German people."

(August 6th 1950)

"Anyone who calls for neutralisation and demilitarisation is either a first class idiot, or a traitor."

("Frankfurter Allgemeine", June 25th 1951)

"The best way to win back the Germanic East is by means of German rearmament in the European Army."

(February 10th 1952)

"The Federal Government will not leave the European Defence Community even if the Soviet Government offers free elections in the Soviet Zone and the reunification of Germany."

(March 1952)

"The time has come to abandon the 'smelling-out' of nazis. If we once start on that, nobody knows where it will end."

(Parliamentary debate, October 22nd 1952)

"We always speak of reunification. Should we not rather say: The liberation of the East?"

(September 8th 1953)

"We do not want atomic weapons. We can't possibly afford them. In full knowledge of the facts we reject the idea of nuclear weapons for the Bundeswehr."

(Election speech, Kiel, July 5th 1957)

"Opponents of nuclear weapons for the Bundeswehr say there is only a choice between nuclear death and surrender. If we wish to make our voice heard in the big political questions, then we must be ready to shoulder the burdens."

(Parliamentary debate, March 1958)

"Peaceful co-existence between nations with completely different social systems is an illusion."

(January 10th 1960)

State Opera Chief Retires

Max Burghardt, veteran actor and anti-fascist, retired from the director's post at East Berlin's State Opera House on January 7th for reasons of ill health, after heading the famous company for eight years. Professor Burghardt, who is nearly 70, will continue his activities as president of the German Cultural Association (Kulturbund).

Professor Burghardt was a member of a workers' and soldiers' council in Germany after World War One. A very popular actor, he remained close to the working-class movement and joined the Communist Party in 1930. In 1935, after playing an active part in the anti-nazi resistance movement, he was sent to concentration camp on charges of high treason. After the liberation of Germany, Professor Burghardt became director of Radio Cologne until Konrad Adenauer, then mayor of the city, forced him out of the position. Soon afterwards he came to eastern Germany, where he held a number of important positions and was finally appointed in 1955 as head of the newly-rebuilt State Opera on Unter den Linden.

His successor is Professor Hans Pischner, 48, a piano-maker's son who became a famous harpsichord player, musicologist and, until taking on his new job, Deputy Minister of Culture in the GDR.

Children Paint for Artist

David Alfaro Siqueiros, 65, famous Mexican painter who has been imprisoned on political charges for over two years, and who is fighting a possible 25 year jail sentence, warmly thanked 4000 children of the GDR who had sent him pictures they had made themselves as a symbol of solidarity.

"Probably no-one in current political life has ever received a more powerful evidence of solidarity than the one you sent me," Siqueiros wrote to the children.

No Pledge, No Puck

West Germany must pledge that its ice hockey team will respect the flag and national anthem of the GDR or forfeit all participation in the World Ice Hockey Championships in Stockholm beginning March 7th. This was the decision of the International Ice Hockey League (LIHG) on January 7th, aimed at preventing a scandal like the one in Geneva in March 1961, when the West German team was forced to leave the ice just before playing the GDR because the Bonn Government feared that the players might have to honour the GDR flag and anthem.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

For the past few days I have been sitting in on the Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party here in East Berlin. On other pages of this issue we tell you something about the main speeches, and here I want just to attach a few marginal notes, jotted down more or less at random during some of the duller stretches which must occur in any big congress of this sort. I should perhaps qualify that statement; by "duller moments" I mean in general stretches of the discussion dealing with subjects like chemical fertiliser about which I know nothing, though they are highly important to the agricultural experts.

All Congresses

As chance has it, I have attended, as a journalist, almost all the congresses and central conferences of the Socialist Unity Party since its foundation in 1946. The only one I think I missed was the 1946 unification congress, when I was in Warsaw as correspondent for Reuters. (In case anyone is interested in the difference between "congress" and "conference", it is that a congress has the job of electing a new Central Committee as well as political discussion, while a conference is purely a discussion meeting.)

As I sat in the press box listening to the speakers and watching the 2500 delegates in the audience, I found my mind going back to the first such meeting I attended here in East Berlin in 1947. The delegates to that conference looked drawn, overworked and wan; they were neatly but shabbily dressed; and a very high proportion of them were wearing the red triangle badge of former concentration camp inmates.

No-Fag Pause

When there was a pause in the discussion, and delegates could go out for a smoke and refreshments, there was very little or no smoking because cigarettes were almost as rare as gold in Germany in those days, and the refreshments were scanty. If I remember rightly, they consisted of a thin and rather foul brew masquerading as beer, and cups of watery soup which tasted as though it was made of boiled boots, and pretty shaggy boots at that. But despite the general air of scarcity and privation there was an electric atmosphere; the veterans of the nazi prisons and the anti-nazi underground knew that they were laying the groundwork for a new Germany.

At the current Party Congress, 16 years later, the scene has altered out of all recognition. Intervals for refreshment are marked by big scrums round the stands selling hot sausages, ham sandwiches, and a wide variety of beers and soft drinks which have nothing in common with the 1947 vintages; and everybody not afraid of lung cancer is puffing away to his heart's content.

The outward appearance of the delegates has changed greatly too; nobody looks half-starved except for a few naturally scraggy individuals like me who never get fat however much they eat, and everybody is at least as well dressed as the delegates to a British Labour Party Conference. In fact, one western correspondent remarked to me that the delegates looked remarkably like the delegates to a British Labour Party or TUC conference. He was only partly right; I don't think that there you would see so many young people. As I write, no figures have been made available for a breakdown of the congress delegates by age, but I would guess that something like half of them are under 35.

Man in the Factory

And just to avoid any misunderstanding, I should emphasise that the vast majority of delegates are not full-time politicians, but ordinary men and women from the factories and fields who have been elected to represent their colleagues at this big political event.

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And all these young delegates, of course, are people who spent almost the whole of their conscious lives under a socialist system; they are not fighting the battles of the past, but going forward optimistically to the future.

It is a good thing that so many obviously capable and enthusiastic young people are coming into public life, because some of the old guard are beginning to get a bit shaky. A lot of the delegates are still veterans who wear medal ribbons showing that they fought in the revolutionary struggles in Germany in 1918–23, in Spain in 1936–39, or in the underground against Hitler, but many of them are beginning to show their age.

70 Years Young

I should add that this does not apply to Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, who will be 70 this year. After delivering a six-hour keynote speech he jumped up the steps leading from the speaker's desk to the platform "like a young mountain goat" as a colleague commented.

It was an astonishing achievement, but several people I spoke to were asking whether it was really necessary for the keynote speech to be this long. It seemed to me that it would have been easy enough for Walter Ulbricht to speak on the central political questions, and leave a lot of the detailed discussion of industry, agriculture and education to some of the other very talented members of the leadership of the Party.

Sex and the Squirrel

I feel I must pass on to readers the world-shaking decision made by the Lord Chamberlain, Britain's oddly named theatre censor, with regard to one of the plays of Bertolt Brecht, great German dramatist who lived in the GDR until his death in 1956. The London Phoenix Theatre is producing "Baal", Brecht's first play, early in February. Before it can go on the boards, however, the Lord Chamberlain has ordered the excision of "certain references to the sex life of the squirrel".

I assure you that I did not invent this: it was reported by the London "Sunday Telegraph" on January 13th.

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